

From: Rohan Samahon
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Windows has become a Public Good

The suggested remedies thus far have been far insufficient in remedying the problem at hand. Microsoft has grown large and so powerful that even the government can't make a fair impartial ruling on the problem. You are probably all typing up your reports and decisions on Windows based PCs. The fact of the matter is that Microsoft's Windows operation systems have become the standard and the system that more than 95% of PCs use. Software must be tailored to work on this platform. In essence Windows is comparable to our roads, a public good and resource. How can one company dictate how the roads will be designed and simultaneously create cars (software) that will run on those roads? The two interests are conflicting interests to the consumer. Microsoft has grown so immensely large that they can afford to give a software program away for free, ie: Internet Explorer, hotmail accounts, Windows Media Player, etc... because it receives major revenues from its operating system sales. Meanwhile companies that rely on the revenue of their one product ie: RealPlayer, Netscape Communicator, etc.. are run out of business. Once they're gone Microsoft can now control the price of that industry: ie: video playback and also its innovation or the slowing thereof. This is so frustrating as a consumer that the US govt. is overlooking this for the benefit of Microsoft. This company has abused its marketplace position over and over again. As soon as any of their products hit critical mass they control that market too. We've seen this over and over again. Wake up DOJ.

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